Go to http://air.sfsu.edu/assessment/resources for information about mission statements and links to SFSU statements

**Mission Statement Assessment Activity Report Due April 21, 2017 to the Office of Academic Planning**

**Mission Statements – What do we do, why do we do it, how do we do it, who are we doing it for?**

*Why are they important?* (from NAU) Understanding and articulating your program's overall goals, purpose, and values accomplishes a number of things for your degree program. First, it synthesizes the many unique talents and goals of your faculty and aligns them into a single, common purpose. The identification of a common purpose assists faculty in making decisions concerning program and course level learning outcomes. In addition, it guides and focuses your program's decision processes concerning important assessment questions and directions needing investigation, based on your program's larger direction, values, and goals.

A program mission statement (from NAU, UConn and elsewhere)
- Is a broad statement of the educational purpose of the program, describes the community the program serves, and states the values and guiding principles which define its standards
- Sets the tone and philosophical position from which the program's goals/objectives/outcomes are developed
- Describes both the purpose and the learning environment of the program
- Reflects how the program contributes to the education and careers of students graduating from the program
- Reflects how the teaching and research efforts are used to enhance student learning
- Is aligned with department, college and university missions
- Should be distinctive for the program

**Mission Statement Rubric** – developed and used by the University Academic Assessment Advisory Committee (UAAAC) to provide feedback to programs about their mission statement.

The program's mission statement concisely articulates its guiding purpose and identity, clarifies the educational value of its curriculum, and aligns with the university's broader public mission.

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<th>ABSENT</th>
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<td>Clear statement of program’s purpose and identity, the educational value of curriculum, and its link to university’s mission</td>
<td>Mission statement articulates program’s purpose but may lack broader context</td>
<td>Vague mission statement with little connection to specific program</td>
<td>No mission statement</td>
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**San Francisco State University Mission Statement Academic Senate Policy #S15-176**

From the heart of a diverse community, San Francisco State University honors roots, stimulates intellectual and personal development, promotes equity, and inspires the courage to lead, create, and innovate.

SF State is a major public urban university, situated in one of the world's great cities. Building on a century-long history of commitment to quality teaching and broad access to undergraduate and graduate education, the University offers comprehensive, rigorous, and integrated academic programs that require students to engage in open-minded inquiry and reflection. SF State encourages its students, faculty, and staff to engage fully with the community and develop and share knowledge.

Inspired by the diversity of our community that includes many first-generation college students, and the courage of an academic community that strives to break down traditional boundaries, SF State equips its students to meet the challenges of the 21st century. With the unwavering commitment to social justice that is central to the work of the university, SF State prepares its students to become productive, ethical, active citizens with a global perspective.
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Mission Statement Activity Report Template

Department _American Indian Studies________________________________________________
College __Ethnic Studies_____________________________________________________

1. What was your most recent mission statement prior to any revisions?

After careful review, the department's mission statement seems to be divided between the following three statements that can be found on the American Indians Studies website (http://sfsuais.sfsu.edu) in both the history and program scope:

The Third World Liberation Strike of 1969 led to the establishment of the only College of Ethnic Studies in the United States. In that context, the beginnings of the Red Power Movement in the occupation of Alcatraz Island from 1969-71 deeply informed the founding of the American Indian Studies Department. American Indians from the Mission District and American Indian students on campus, including Richard Oakes (Mohawk), guided the development of the department’s objectives and curriculum, hiring local community elders to teach courses in American history and culture. Their vision was based on a commitment to community participation and service -- from the community to campus and from the campus to the community -- towards the goal of facilitating American Indian self-determination through education.

Today, the department has developed an interdisciplinary and comparative curriculum committed to providing educational programs and services to American Indian communities in California and North America. It offers students a solid theoretical and applied framework for understanding American Indian histories and contemporary cultures. It is distinguished in its continuing work with community organizations, tribes, and other academic disciplines to foster understanding about the political and social importance of American Indian sovereignty and self-determination. This work is inclusive of the Native peoples of the Americas and the Pacific.

The department's educational mission and objectives has a special responsibility to Native peoples of California and the United States. California is the land on which the university and department rests; CSU is a public institution in the United States education system. Therefore, significant aspects of the program and curriculum are focused on Natives of California, US-Native politics, and North American Indian cultures with the aim of preparing students to work with Native groups and urban communities in California and the United States. The program also includes an international, comparative perspective and coalitional politics with Native peoples of U.S. occupied territories and more broadly within the Americas and the Pacific. It balances classroom education with an active community participatory learning component. Therefore, it best prepares students for going on to do graduate work or a number of different careers with Native peoples in not only California but internationally.

2. Please describe the process of revising or developing your mission statement. What informed your discussions about your new or revised mission statement (e.g. changes in the profession, new focus of the department)? How were department faculty members involved? Was it developed in department meetings or other gatherings?

Two major goals are guiding the revision of our mission statement: one hundred percent faculty participation and area expertise contribution. The rationale for one hundred percent faculty participation is to ensure that the department’s mission statement is centered in relationship to the teaching
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philosophies of the American Indian Studies faculty. Although lecturer faculty are not included in this process, consolation with them will occur in tandem with the revision process to ensure consistency. This will also enable the American Indian Studies faculty to review the teaching assignments of lecturer faculty for fit within the curriculum and enable lecturers to showcase their expertise within the classroom. In a similar vein, tenured faculty are being encouraged – during spring 2017 and summer 2017 - to rethink their areas of expertise, its salience in the current mission statement language, and new language for revision.

What informed this process was the collective realization that our mission statement had not been revised since the reinstatement of the American Indian Studies major in 2006. Between 2006 and 2017, the field of American Indian Studies has evolved academically and pedagogically, as has the teaching and research interests of the faculty in the areas of environmental sustainability, history, music, gender, and sexuality, and job prospects for students with tribal, local, and national agencies working with American Indian and non-American Indian communities. To ensure consistency between the department’s mission and faculty practices, this revision is vital to the presenting an updated face of the current relevance of the American Indian Studies. Discussion have occurred during department meetings throughout the Spring 2016 semester with the generous support of the Student Success Within the Majors from the Office of Undergraduate Studies and Academic Planning. The following is the meeting schedule:

- February 24, 2017
- March 10, 2017
- April 14, 2017
- April 21, 2017
- May 5, 2017

The university Zoom resource was utilized by faculty unable to meet face-to-face and an iLearn forum for discussing the mission statement revisions was established to enable convenience for faculty contributions and collect spontaneous ideas and suggested revisions that occurred outside of meetings. The latter resource will continue to be used throughout summer 2017 and in the future to allow for ongoing attention to the American Indian Studies mission statement and curriculum.

3. What is your revised mission statement?

The following is the current working draft of the revised American Indian Studies Department mission statement:

The American Indian Studies Department's educational mission and objectives have a special responsibility to Native peoples of California and the United States. The program scope is focused on Natives of California, North American Indian cultures, environmental sustainability concerns, genders and sexualities, histories, languages, laws, mixed-race, and music with the aim of preparing students to work with rural and urban communities in California and throughout United States. Students learn to understand American Indians within an interdisciplinary and comparative curriculum, based in solid theoretical and applied frameworks, that balances classroom education with active community participatory learning. This curriculum prepares students for graduate studies and working with community organizations, tribes, and other academic disciplines to foster understanding about the political and social importance of American Indian sovereignty and self-determination. The program also includes an international comparative perspective on coalitional politics with Native peoples of U.S. occupied territories and more broadly within the Americas and the Pacific.
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4. Please post your revised mission statement on your department web page.

The posting of the revised American Indian Studies Department Mission statement will occur as of June 15, 2017, pending approval by the American Indian Studies faculty.

Given that this year you revised your mission statement, the next step would be to review of your program learning goals in the 2017-18 academic year. If that is not the case, please notify the Associate Dean of Academic Planning. Thank you!